REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 4, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has amended Fig. 1 as indicated above.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (US 5, 138, 443). Claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Haraguchi et al. (US 6,222, 613). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the rejections.

The present invention relates to a storage printer for developing images taken from an imaging device such as a digital camera. The images are transferred to a memory of the storage printer and image processes can be performed on the image. The original images from the imaging device or images upon which image processes have been performed, can be stored in a storage medium of the storage printer. If a print of an image is requested, a search can be conducted in the storage medium of the storage printer for the requested image. Therefore, there is no need to locate the medium containing the original image.

Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda

Ikeda pertains to a digital color copy machine. A color reader 1 reads an original image and the read information is converted into an electrical digital image signal. The signals are subject to image processing and subsequently printed on a printer 2. See col. 4, lines 31-41.

Claim 1

The Examiner states that Ikeda teaches an image processing unit that *analyzes* an original image data acquired from an image data supply source *to set image processing conditions* and which processes the original image data in accordance with settings of the image processing conditions so as to produce outputting image data (claim 1).

The respective aspect of Ikeda cited by the Examiner (col. 6, lines 26-68) describes that the image processing unit processes an image signal and the signal is transferred to a color printer. Therefore, the image processing unit is displaced from a printer altogether, whereas the claim describes a printer including the processing unit. Also, there is no indication that the image processing unit of Ikeda *analyzes* the original image data *to set image processing conditions*, as described in claim 1.

Claim 1 also requires a storage for storing a result of processing in the image processing unit. The Examiner states that line memory O and RAM 78a store processed data. The cited elements relate to features of a processor displaced from a printer, but the claims describe a printer containing such elements.

Claim 1 further requires a reading unit that reads the result of processing from the storage (line memory O or RAM 78a) and supplies it into either the image processing unit (Fig. 2), the printing unit (color printer 2) or both. The Examiner cites CCD's 500a for teaching the reading unit of claim 1.

Assuming CCD's 500a teach the reading unit of claim 1, CCD's 550a do not read the result of processing from storage (line memory O or RAM 78a). In particular, CCD's 500a read reflected light from an original image irradiated with an exposure lamp. Col. 7, lines 8-11.

There is no indication that CCD's 500a read a result of processing from line memory O or RAM

78a, and the Examiner has not established otherwise.

For the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed patentable.

Rejection of claims 3-7 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda and Haraguchi

The Examiner states that Ikeda does not teach the elements of claims 3-7 and cites

Haraguchi to cure the deficiency.

Haraguchi pertains to an image reproducing apparatus in which image data is input as

original image data. The original image data is then subject to image processing, exposure

processing and development processing. See Fig. 2 and corresponding text. A first image

processor generates second image data from the first image data by converting an image size of

the first image data into a predetermined image size of the second image data. A second image

processor generates a third image data by processing the first or second image data and an image

is output based on the third image data (Haraguchi claim 1).

Claim 3

Claim 3 requires that the storage be a removable storage medium. The Examiner states

that Haraguchi col. 9, lines 1-37 discloses a removable storage medium. As previously

indicated, Ikeda does not teach the storage unit of claim 1 and Haraguchi does not cure the

deficiency.

The aspect of Ikeda initially cited for teaching a storage is RAM 78a and line memory O.

RAM 78a and line memory O are not removable like a PC card, floppy disk and CD ROM, as

would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Examiner states that it would be

obvious to modify Ikeda to include the removable storage medium of Haraguchi so that the

media storing the image data can be read by a computer as taught by Haraguchi. It appears that RAM 78a and line memory O are fixed structural components necessary for the operation of a computer of Ikeda. See Fig. 2A-C. Therefore, it is unlikely they would be made removable.

Claim 4

Claim 4 requires that the storage member be at least one member of the group consisting of a digital video disk, a recordable compact disk, a semiconductor memory, a magneto-optical recording medium and a removable hard disk.

The Examiner states Haraguchi teaches the elements of claim 4, citing col. 9, lines 1-37 in support. However, at no point is a digital video disk, a recordable compact disk, a semiconductor memory, a magneto-optical recording medium or a removable hard disk mentioned in the respective column and lines cited by the Examiner. Therefore, claim 4 should be deemed patentable.

Claim 5

Claim 5 requires that the storage is externally connected via a wire or radio waves. The Examiner cites col. 9, lines 1-37 for teaching the elements of claim 5. Col. 9, lines 1-37 describes an image processing section 70 for applying a resolution converting processing to the image data incoming from a PC card, a floppy disk or a CD ROM. Assuming a PC card, a floppy disk and a CD ROM teach the storage of claim 1, there does not appear to be any indication that the PC card, floppy disk and CD ROM are externally connected via wire or radio waves. Therefore, claim 5 should be deemed patentable.

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Claim 6

Claim 6 requires a transmission unit for supplying an external equipment with at least one member of the group consisting of the original image data, the outputting image data and the image processing conditions.

The Examiner cites column 8, lines 17-42 for teaching the elements of claim 6. The aspect of Haraguchi cited by the Examiner describes that image data is transmitted to exposure processing section 4. However, it is unclear where a transmission unit is disclosed. Furthermore, it does not appear that exposure processing section 4 is external equipment. In particular, upon viewing Fig. 1, exposure processing section 4 appears to be integral to the printing producing apparatus 1.

Assuming Haraguchi teaches the elements of claim 6, it would not be obvious to modify Ikeda to include exposure processing section 4. In particular, Ikeda already comprises components for exposure processing (components 5, 6, 7 and 10), therefore there would be no reason to add the same structural components to Ikeda. Col. 4, lines 48-50. Therefore, claim 6 should be deemed patentable.

Finally, Applicant has added claims 13-20 to provide a more varied scope of protection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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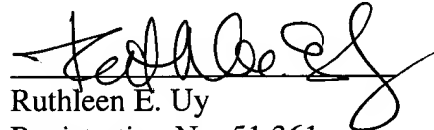
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Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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FIG. 1

30 INTERFACE UNIT

30a

I/F

30b

STORAGE

SEARCH UNIT   32

22

PRINTING UNIT

P

20

10 PRINTER

DATA CONVERTING SECTION

28a   Section

DISPLAY UNIT   28

18

IMAGE PROCESSING UNIT

SETUP SECTION   14

DATA PROCESSING SECTION   16

OPERATING PANEL   24

FM   12

INPUT UNIT   26

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